Patent Claims

1. Method for monitoring a field device connected via a databus with a

5   control unit, characterized in that the control unit requests, at intervals
in time, an individual identifier of the field device and compares this
with an identifier stored in the control unit.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the individual

10   identifier is the serial number of the field device.

3. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the individual
identifier is a key in the device firmware of the field device.

15   4. Method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the identifier is a
test sum of a memory unit in the field device.

5. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in
that the requested identifier is stored in a database, along with a time

20   stamp.

6. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in
that a storing in the database only occurs, when a change is detected
in the identifier.

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7. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that, in the case of a change in the identifier, an alarm
or warning is produced.

30   8. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that an alarm or warning is only produced, when the change occurs outside of a specified time period for maintenance.

9. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,

5   characterized in that the alarm or warning is presented at the control unit.

10. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the alarm or warning is sent in electronic form (e.g.

10   eMail, SMS, fax).

11. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the alarms or warnings are retrievable at the control unit.

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12. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the alarms or warnings can be retrieved via a client (e.g. Internet Explorer).

20   13. Method for monitoring a field device connected via a databus with a control unit, characterized in that the control unit directs a query to the field device in intervals of time, the query requires an answer from the field device, and, in case no answer comes from the field device, such fact is stored in a data base along with a corresponding time

25   stamp.